IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3, 11 and 12 and amend claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9 and 10. A copy of all pending claims and a status of the claims are provided below.

1. (Currently amended) A microplate liquid handling system comprising:

a main frame body;

a dispensing mechanism including a plurality of cylinders extending side by side and in parallel with each other to provide a linear cylinder array, each cylinder having a nozzle and a plunger, and ~~each~~ dispensing tips each being attachable to each nozzle for performing suction and discharge of liquid reagent or specimen through the dispensing tips by way of each plunger;

a moving mechanism supported to the main frame body ~~for~~configured to move~~ing~~ the dispensing mechanism in X-axis, Y-axis, and Z-axis directions directed perpendicular to each other; and

a rotating mechanism that rotates the dispensing mechanism by a predetermined angle about a vertically directed rotation axis for changing a direction of the array of the plurality of cylinders, the rotating mechanism comprising an abutment member fixed to the main frame body, and a disc member disposed coaxially with the rotation axis of the dispensing mechanism and selectively contactable with abutment member, the dispensing mechanism being rotatable about the rotation axis upon movement of the dispensing mechanism by the moving mechanism and upon contact of the disc member with the abutment member.

2. (Currently amended) The microplate liquid handling system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the moving mechanism comprises an X-axis member, a Y-axis member, and Z-axis member, extending in the X-axis, Y-axis, and Z-axis directions perpendicular to each other and relatively movable in the X-axis, Y-axis, and Z-[[ ]]axis directions.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The microplate liquid handling system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the dispensing mechanism is rotatably supported to the Z-axis member, and

wherein the abutment member extends in a direction parallel to one of the x-axis and the y-axis, and

wherein the ~~rotating mechanism comprises a disc member disposed coaxial with the rotation axis of the dispensing mechanism, and an abutment member fixed to the main frame body and extending in a direction parallel to one of the X-axis and the Y-axis, the disc member being selectively contactable with the abutment member, the~~ dispensing mechanism is ~~being~~ rotatable about the rotation axis upon movement of the dispensing mechanism in one of the X-axis direction and the Y-axis direction ~~by the moving mechanism~~.

5. (Currently amended) The microplate liquid handling system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dispensing mechanism is detachably ~~provided~~connectable to the rotating mechanism.

6. (Original) The microplate liquid handling system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dispensing mechanism further comprises a driving unit for moving the plungers up and down.

7. (Original) The microplate liquid handling system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the plurality of cylinders have vertical axes extending vertically, and spaced away from each other by an even pitch, and

wherein each dispensing tip is detachably connected to each nozzle; and

wherein each nozzle is provided at each lower end of the cylinder and has a discharge hole opened vertically downwards, and

wherein each plunger is provided at each upper end of the cylinder, suction and discharge of liquid into and from each dispensing tip being effected upon vertical movement of each the plunger.

8. (Original) The microplate liquid handling system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the rotation axis is positioned in coincidence with a longitudinal center of the cylinder array.

9. (Currently amended) The microplate liquid handling system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of cylinders comprise twelve cylinders~~is twelve in number~~.

10. (Currently amended) The microplate liquid handling system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a microcapsule plate having a plurality of wells arranged in a 12 x 8 matrix, each dispensing tip discharging a liquid onto each well.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)